



**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**

**PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701  
(406) 444-9939**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST**

### **PART I. PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION**

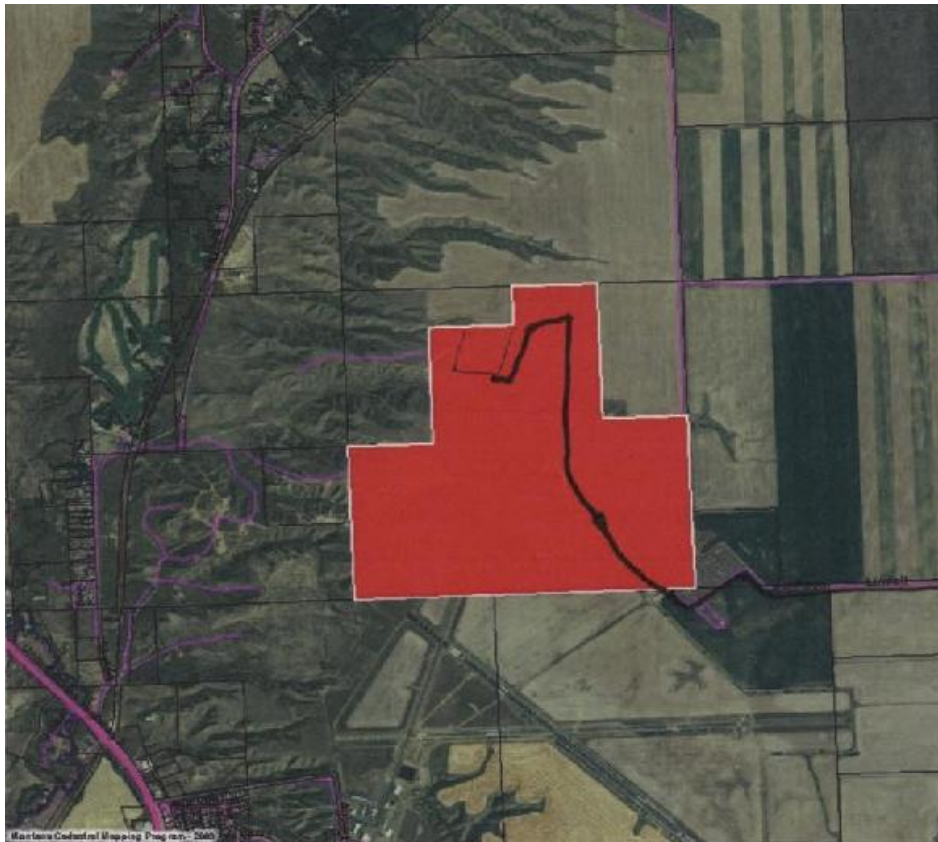
**1. Project Title:** Valley County Rifle, Pistol Club (VCRPC)

**2. Type of Proposed Action:**

Install concrete outhouse and 10'X24' concrete pad.

**3. Location Affected by Proposed Action:**

The Valley County Rifle & Pistol Club leases the shooting range property from the Valley County Airport Commission. The club is located in Valley County, Montana forming a part of the Glasgow International Airport, and is described as T29N R39E Sect. 35, S2 NE NW



**Map 1 – Valley County Rifle & Pistol Club with 2 ½ mile access road from Highway 24 N. The least portion of the range is 250 yards X 250 yards in the north central portion of the red area.**

**4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action:** MCA 87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) and MCA 87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices). The Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

To be eligible for grant assistance, a private shooting club or a private organization:

- (a)(i) shall accept in its membership any person who holds or is eligible to hold a Montana hunting license and who pays club or organization membership fees;*
  - (ii) may not limit the number of members;*
  - (iii) may charge a membership fee not greater than the per-member share of the club's or organization's reasonable cost of provision of services, including establishment, improvement, and maintenance of shooting facilities and other membership services; and*
  - (iv) shall offer members occasional guest privileges at no cost to the member or invited guest and shall make a reasonable effort to hold a public sight-in day each September, when the general public may use the shooting range for a day-use fee or at no cost; or*
- (b) shall admit the general public for a reasonable day-use fee.*

**5. Need for the Action(s):**

The VCRPC is in need of a restroom. Currently the VCRPC is renting a portable outhouse, but it is upset by the wind and it lacks handicap accessibility. Handicapped accessibility is also not available at the range buildings.

**6. Objectives for the Action(s):**

Install/construct a handicapped accessible concrete vault outhouse, and pour a concrete pad at the east end of range buildings providing handicapped and operational access to those buildings.

**7. Project Size: estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected:**

The proposed improvements are a much small area than the total acreage and will be safely spread within the leased properties

**8. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project):**

The site for the range was formerly a military shooting range (old Glasgow AFB) that had been abandoned and the area has also been used for grazing. There are no surface waters or delineated wetlands within the lease area. Mostly dry land with prairie grasses.

**9. Description of Project:**

Construct and install a handicapped accessible concrete vault outhouse and a 10'X24' concrete pad.

Construction will require excavation for the vaulted outhouse. Additionally, construction of both projects will require at least 40 yards of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " gravel.

**10. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:**  
None

**(a) Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
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N/A

**Funding:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
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Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$6,850
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**11. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups:** There was a shooting club on the site which lost its lease on the property and the new Valley Rifle & Pistol club has taken over. The range is a membership fee range, with daily range and visitor fee options for range usage. In addition to registered shoots and tournaments it is estimated that there will be over 1,000 members, the Law Enforcement community, 4-H Shooting Sports, Boy Scouts, Hunter Education and others using the range on an annual basis.

**12. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement:** Proposed range improvements proposals have been discussed within the membership of the club and with the associated project vendors, contractors, the City of Glasgow, the Airport Commission and the Valley County Commission.

**13. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA:**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

**14. Names, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:**

Darrell Morehouse, 215 4<sup>th</sup> St. South, Glasgow, MT 59230 (406) 228-2842

**15. Other Pertinent Information:**

Shooting range applications require the participant's governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range-funding assistance. Resolution Date: April 27, 2011.

## **PART II. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES**

The proposed alternative A, alternative B and the no action alternative were considered.

- **Alternative A (Proposed Alternative)** is as described in Part I, paragraph 10 (Description of Project). Construct and install a vaulted outhouse and a 10'X24' concrete pad.
- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Shooting Range Development Grant money would be denied and the area will remain as an active shooting range without improvements proposed.

**Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:** Only the proposed alternative and the no action alternative were considered.

There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent. Neither the proposed alternative nor the no action alternative would have significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

There are beneficial consequences to acceptance of the **Proposed Alternative (A)** Construct and install a vaulted outhouse and a 10'X24' concrete pad.

The **No Action Alternative (B)** would be to not fund the improvements and the range will continue on with present conditions. Land use would remain the same.

**Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:**

NONE

**List and explain proposed mitigating measures (stipulations):** None

### **PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

Abbreviated Checklist – The degree and intensity determines extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmental sensitive areas.

**Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.**

<b>Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Can Be Mitigated</b>	<b>Comments Below</b>
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				<b>X</b>		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				<b>X</b>		<b>#2</b>
3. Introduction of new species into an area				<b>X</b>		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				<b>X</b>		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				<b>X</b>		<b>#5</b>
6. Existing water right or reservation				<b>X</b>		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				<b>X</b>		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				<b>X</b>		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				<b>X</b>		<b>#9</b>
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				<b>X</b>		
11. Aesthetics				<b>X</b>		

**Comments** (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

**2. & 5.** There are neither surface waters nor delineated wetlands on the leased property.

**9.** This project uses no federal funds nor does it take place on state owned or controlled property; therefore, the Federal 106 Regulations and the State Antiques Act do not apply.

**Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.**

<b>Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Can Be Mitigated</b>	<b>Comments Below</b>
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				<b>X</b>		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				<b>X</b>		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				<b>X</b>		
4. Agricultural production				<b>X</b>		
5. Human health				<b>X</b>		
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				<b>X</b>		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				<b>X</b>		
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				<b>X</b>		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				<b>X</b>		
10. Demands for government services				<b>X</b>		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				<b>X</b>		

**Comments** (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

#### **PART IV. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT**

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. None of the project reviewed were complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The projects being implemented are already on an existing range/alterd areas that together with the insignificant environmental effects of the proposed action, indicates that this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative. The Valley County Rifle & Pistol Club's proposed alternative, to provide a safe regulated shooting opportunity is supported by its members and the public. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative (A) for the improvements outlined in Part I, Para. 9.

#### **PART V. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

**Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur?** NO

**Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant?** This proposed action has no impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant. Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project and there are no conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

**Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:**

There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative; therefore an EIS is not required.

#### **PART VI. EA CONCLUSION SECTION**

**Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:**

Valley County Rifle, Pistol Club  
MT Fish Wildlife and Parks

**EA prepared by: GENE R. HICKMAN**

MS Wildlife Management  
Ecological Assessments  
Helena, MT 59602

**Date Completed:** June 18, 2011

**Describe public involvement, if any:**

This draft EA will be advertised on FWP's web site and through a legal ad in the Glasgow Courier announcing a public comment period. A press release will also announce the project and comment period ending July 22, 2011.